

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) A paint storage apparatus comprising:
  - a. a container divided into a plurality of adjoining paint storage compartments; and
  - b. a removable lid having a plurality of orifices, wherein when the removable lid is fixed on the container, the orifices are aligned over the compartments, with one of the plurality of orifices over each of the plurality of compartments.
2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the container and the removable lid are substantially cylindrical.
3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the container and the removable lid are substantially circular.
4. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the container and the removable lid are substantially square.
5. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the container and the removable lid are substantially angular.
6. (previously presented) A paint storage container comprising:
  - a. a body portion having an open upper end and forming a chamber region;
  - b. one or more walls dividing the chamber region into a plurality of adjoining paint storage compartments; and
  - c. a removable lid having a plurality of orifices configured to align over the paint storage compartments, wherein one of the plurality of orifices is over each of the plurality of compartments, and wherein the removable lid is configured to mate with the one or more walls so as to create a positive seal.

7. (original) The container of claim 6, wherein the container is substantially cylindrical.
8. (original) The container of claim 6, wherein the container is substantially circular.
9. (original) The container of claim 8, wherein a diameter of the open end is greater than a maximum diameter of the bottom of the container.
10. (original) The container of claim 6, wherein the container is substantially square.
11. (original) The container of claim 6, wherein the container is substantially angular.
12. (original) The container of claim 6, wherein the container is uniformly formed from a homogenous material.
13. (previously presented) The container of claim 6, wherein the removable lid further comprises a tab configured to facilitate removal of the lid from the container.
14. (previously presented) The container of claim 6, wherein the container further comprises a cap, configured to detachably couple to the removable lid and prevent spillage and spoilage of paint stored within the container.
15. (original) The container of claim 6, wherein the lid further comprises a plurality of grooves configured to cooperatively engage the lid with the body portion.
16. (currently amended): A divided paint storage apparatus comprising:
  - a. a cup comprising:
    - i. integrally formed interior walls; and
    - ii. one or more dividers coupled to the interior walls and configured to separate the cup into a plurality of adjoining chambers configured to store paint; and

- b. a removable lid comprising:
  - i. one or more orifices configured to align with the plurality of adjoining chambers; and
  - ii. one or more guiding means configured to couple with the one or more dividers and to align the one or more orifices with the plurality of adjoining chambers.
- 17. (original) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein a shape of the cup is substantially cylindrical.
- 18. (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein a shape of the cup is substantially circular.
- 19. (original): The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 18, wherein the shape of the cup is configured such that a diameter of the top of the cup is greater than a maximum diameter of the bottom of the cup.
- 20. (original) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein a shape of the cup is substantially square.
- 21. (original) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein a shape of the cup is substantially angular.
- 22. (original) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein the lid couples to the cup through an annular locking structure that frictionally engages so as to create a positive seal.
- 23. (original) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein the one or more guiding means couple with the one or more dividers through an annular locking structure that frictionally engages so as to create a positive seal.
- 24. (original) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein the apparatus is uniformly formed from a homogenous material.

25. (original) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 24, wherein the homogenous material comprises a polymer resin.
26. (original) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 24, wherein the homogenous material comprises polypropylene.
27. (original) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 24, wherein the homogenous material comprises a liquid impervious plastic material.
28. (original) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein the orifices are in a tapered configuration.
29. (previously presented) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein the apparatus further comprises a cap configured to detachably couple to the lid and prevent spillage and spoilage of paint stored within the plurality of adjoining chambers.
30. (original) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 29, wherein the cap further comprises a tab configured to facilitate removal of the cap from the apparatus.
31. (original) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein the lid further comprises a tab configured to facilitate removal of the lid from the apparatus.
32. (original) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 16, wherein the bottom of the cup further comprises an annular ring configured to support the apparatus on a surface.
33. (currently amended) An annular paint cup comprising:
  - a. one or more walls contained within the annular paint cup, wherein the one or more walls divide the annular paint cup and define a plurality of paint storage cavities; and
  - b. a removable lid with a plurality of orifices comprising a planar surface with a top and a bottom, wherein the bottom of the planar surface comprises one or more

depending grooves configured to cooperatively engage with the one or more walls and align the plurality of orifices with the plurality of paint storage cavities.

34. (currently amended) A divided paint cup comprising;
- a. a container means for retaining paint comprising:
    - i. a main chamber divided by one or more inner walls;
    - ii. a plurality of storage cavities defined by the enclosed space between the inner walls and the main chamber and configured for receiving and retaining paint;
  - b. a removable lid comprising:
    - i. an annular base portion and an annular wall joined to the annular base portion;
    - ii. a plurality of groove means coupled to the annular base portion and configured to cooperatively engage with the one or more inner walls; and
    - iii. a plurality of orifices configured to align with the plurality of storage cavities when the plurality of groove means are cooperatively engaged with the one or more inner walls.
35. (original) The divided paint cup of claim 34, wherein the main chamber comprises an open top and a bottom and is formed by a substantially vertical portion and two arcuate portions, wherein the arcuate portions blend into the sidewall portion.
36. (original) The divided paint cup of claim 34, wherein the lid and the container means further comprise an annular locking structure configured to frictionally engage so as to create a positive seal.
37. (currently amended) A divided paint storage apparatus comprising;
- a. integrally formed interior walls; ~~and~~
  - b. one or more dividers coupled to the interior walls and configured to separate the apparatus into a plurality of adjoining chambers configured to store paint[.]; and
  - c. a lid with a plurality of orifices, and further wherein the lid is configured to removably couple to the integrally formed interior walls through an annular locking structure that frictionally engages so as to create a positive seal.

38. (previously presented) A method of forming a divided paint cup, comprising the steps of:
- a. thermoforming plastic into one or more dividing walls configured into a generally cylindrical shape;
  - b. thermoforming plastic around the dividing walls and into a generally cylindrical body portion having an open upper end, a rim extending radially outwardly from the perimeter of the open end of said body portion; and
  - c. thermoforming plastic into a generally cylindrical lid having one or more orifices and one or more grooves configured to mate with the dividing walls.
39. (canceled)
40. (previously presented) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 37, wherein a shape of the divided paint storage apparatus is substantially cylindrical.
41. (previously presented) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 37, wherein a shape of the divided paint storage apparatus is substantially circular.
42. (previously presented) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 37, wherein a shape of the divided paint storage apparatus is substantially square.
43. (previously presented) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 37, wherein a shape of the divided paint storage apparatus is substantially angular.
44. (canceled)
45. (previously presented) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 37, wherein the divided paint storage apparatus is uniformly formed from a homogenous material.
46. (previously presented) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 45, wherein the homogenous material comprises a polymer resin.

47. (previously presented) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 45, wherein the homogenous material comprises polypropylene.
48. (previously presented) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 45, wherein the homogenous material comprises a liquid impervious plastic material.
49. (currently amended) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim ~~[[44]]~~ 37, wherein the orifices are in a tapered configuration.
50. (currently amended) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim ~~[[44]]~~ 37, wherein the divided paint storage apparatus further comprises a cap configured to detachably couple to the lid and prevent spillage and spoilage of paint stored within the plurality of adjoining chambers.
51. (previously presented) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim 50, wherein the cap further comprises a tab configured to facilitate removal of the cap from the apparatus.
52. (currently amended) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim ~~[[44]]~~ 37, wherein the divided paint storage apparatus further comprises a cap configured to couple to the lid by a hinge.
53. (currently amended) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim ~~[[44]]~~ 37, wherein the lid further comprises a tab configured to facilitate removal of the lid from the apparatus.
54. (currently amended) The divided paint storage apparatus of claim ~~[[44]]~~ 37, wherein the lid further comprises an indentation configured to facilitate removal of the lid from the apparatus.

Please add the following new claim:

55. (New) A paint storage apparatus comprising:
- a. a container divided into a plurality of adjoining paint storage compartments; and
  - b. a removable lid having a plurality of orifices, wherein when the removable lid is fixed on the container, the orifices are aligned over the compartments, with one of the plurality of orifices over each of the plurality of compartments, permitting selective insertion of a paint applicator into each of the plurality of compartments.